

Message Text

PAGE 01 STATE 192682

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY SAIGON

INFO AMEMBASSY BANGKOK

AMEMBASSY CANBERRA

AMEMBASSY JAKARTA

AMEMBASSY MANILA

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

AMEMBASSY PHNOM PENH

AMEMBASSY RANGOON

AMEMBASSY SEOUL

AMEMBASSY TAIPEI

AMEMBASSY TOKYO

AMEMBASSY VIENTIANE

AMEMBASSY WARSAW

AMEMBASSY WELLINGTON

AMCONSUL BIEN HOA

AMCONSUL CAN THO

AMCONSUL DANANG

AMCONSUL HONG KONG

AMCONSUL NHA TRANG

USDEL JEC PARIS

USLO PEKING

USSAG NAKHON PHANOM

CINCPAC HONOLULU HI

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E.O. 11652 N/A

TAGS: PFOR, XC, US

SUBJECT: SEPTEMBER 27 EA PRESS SUMMARY

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 02 STATE 192682

INDOCHINA

1.GKR TROOPS LAUNCH OPERATION 12 MI. SW OF PP AGAINST
2 KI BATTALIONS TRYING INFILTRATE CAPITAL (STRATHDEE,

REUTER; UPI, NYDN; WP). SECURITY AROUND PRESIDENTIAL PALACE TIGHTENED AND APCs PATROL PP STREETS AS 3-DAY BUDDHIST FESTIVAL, ALSO TRADITIONAL TIME FOR REBEL ATTACKS, STARTS (STRATHDEE). FANK REPORTS KI DRIVEN OUT OF TEMPLE COMPOUND ON KOMPONG CHAM OUTSKIRTS (STRATHDEE; UPI, NYDN; WP).

2. LON NOL, IN SEPT. 25 SPEECH AT DINNER FOR DEPARTING GEN. VOGT (USSAG THAILAND), APPEALED TO US FOR AID INCREASE, SINCE WAR IS "CAUSING INNUMERABLE DIFFICULTIES TO OUR ECONOMY" (WP).

3. SIHANOUK, UP TO NOW READILY AVAILABLE TO PRESS, TELLS RESIDENT CORRESPONDENTS HE WILL GRANT THEM NO MORE INTERVIEWS SINCE CERTAIN (UNSPECIFIED) WESTERN NEWSMEN, IN INTERVIEWS GIVEN IN PRC AND ALGERIA, HAD "DANGEROUSLY DISTORTED" HIS REMARKS AND INTERPRETED HIM FALSELY. CORRESPONDENTS COULD, HOWEVER, SUBMIT QUESTIONS THAT HE WOULD ANSWER IN WRITING (REUTER, FROM PEKING).

4. CSM REPORTS SUIT IS BEING FILED BY 4 CONGRESSMEN AND 17 MEMBERS OF PEACE COALITION, IN FEDERAL COURT, TO STOP SHIPMENT OF MUNITIONS TO SEA. PLAINTIFFS SAY ALL US MILITARY COMBAT SUPPORT WAS TO END AUG. 15.

5. OUSTED DEFENDERS, WITH ARTILLERY AND AIR SUPPORT, BATTLE TO OUTSKIRTS OF CENTRAL HIGHLANDS LE MINH RANGER BASE IN BID TO RECAPTURE IT; GVN CLAIMS VNAF AIRCRAFT HAVE KNOCKED OUT 9 ENEMY TANKS AND 1 BULLDOZER NEAR LE MINH; SAIGON PROTESTS NVA USE OF TANKS FOR FIRST TIME SINCE C-F AS "VERY SERIOUS" TRUCE VIOLATION (CSM; WP; UPI NYDN, PHINQ; NYT). SVN OFFICIAL SAYS ARVN WILL SOON LAUNCH ATTACK ON COMPARABLE NVA POST TO RETALIATE FOR LE MINH (NYT). SHARROCK (REUTER) UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 03 STATE 192682

REPORTS FROM SAIGON THAT COMMANDO TEAMS ARE BEING FLOWN TO LE MINH AREA TO RESCUE STRAGGLERS, WHILE REMNANTS OF OVERRUN BATTALION ARE STILL FIGHTING WITH AIR AND ARTILLERY SUPPORT. THIEU MAY FACE DILEMMA: WHETHER SIMPLY TO DENOUNCE C-F VIOLATION TO ICCS, OR MOUNT MASSIVE RECOVERY OPERATION TO KEEP HIS EARLIER PROMISE TO RECOVER ANY TERRITORY CAPTURED AFTER THE C-F.

6. TWO TRAINS BLOWN UP BY REDS IN PHU YEN PROVINCE, KILLING 1 AND WOUNDING 5 (WP; REUTER). GVN CLAIMS 23 REDS KILLED BY ARVN PATROL IN DINH TUONG PROVINCE (REUTER). GVN COUNTS 85 NVA/VC TRUCE VIOLATIONS IN PAST DAY (WP).

7. SEIDEN (SUN) WRITES FROM SAIGON THAT WAR REMAINS WAY OF LIFE FOR ONE-THIRD OF VN MEN BETWEEN 20 AND 50. CONSCRIPTION CAN CLAIM UP TO 30 YEARS OF A MAN'S LIFE AND THOUGH SOME SOLDIERS PREFER RISK OF BATTLE TO PROBABLE UNEMPLOYMENT AS CIVILIANS, MANY CORRUPT TECHNIQUES EXIST ALLOWING YOUNG MEN AVOID DRAFT AND GO OVERSEAS. DRAFT DEFERMENT CAN BE HAD FOR 250 DOLLARS, AND 5-600 DOLLARS WILL BUY EXIT VISA; BOTH NECESSARY FOR MAN BETWEEN 18 AND 39 TO LEAVE COUNTRY. SEIDEN TELLS OF 35-YEAR OLD TAM, ETHNIC CHINESE WHO HAS BEEN SOLDIER FOR 10 YEARS AND DREAMS OF DESERTION AND "ESCAPE" TO HK WHERE THERE IS NO WAR AND GOOD JOBS ARE AVAILABLE. THIS DREAM SHARED BY MANY SOLDIERS, ESPECIALLY THOSE OF CHINESE ANCESTRY WHO DO NOT FEEL VN IS THEIR COUNTRY, AND WHO HAVE SEEN THEIR FRIENDS KILLED OR CRIPPLED.

SECRETARY KISSINGER

8. NYT'S GWERTZMAN NOTES THAT BEFORE RETURNING TO WASHINGTON WEDNESDAY NIGHT, HAK MET WITH HUANG HUA, AND WITH FMS OF THAILAND, SK AND SVN, AMONG OTHERS.

CHINA
UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 04 STATE 192682

9. GOP CONGRESS MEMBERS HONORED RETIRED SECSTATE ROGERS TUESDAY NIGHT, MADE PLAIN THEIR OPINION THAT HE HAD AS MUCH TO DO WITH CURRENT WORLD PEACE CLIMATE AS HAK. SEN. GRIFFIN PRAISED ROGERS FOR OPENING DOOR TO PRC (S-N'S BEALE, SEPT. 26).

10. CHITRIB'S STARR HOLDS THAT ALTHOUGH GROMYKO NEVER MENTIONED PRC IN HIS UN SPEECH, HE CLEARLY WANTED TO INCLUDE CHINA IN HIS PROPOSAL FOR 10 PERCENT DIVERSION OF DEFENSE FUNDS TO DEVELOPING COUNTRIES BY "ALL PERMANENT MEMBER STATES" OF UNSC, "WITHOUT EXCEPTION." SAYS, LIKEWISE, IN REPEATING PROPOSALS FOR RENUNCIATIONS OF USE OF FORCE OF NUCLEAR WEAPONS BY ALL NUCLEAR STATES, GROMYKO'S MEANING WAS CLEAR WHEN HE SAID "WITH ALL, AND I STRESS, WITH ALL NUCLEAR POWERS."

11. SUN'S ISAACS, IN HK, NOTES PRC LEADERS HAVE ISSUED SERIES OF ECON PROGRESS REPORTS STRESSING CHINA'S SELF-SUFFICIENCY, PARTICULARLY IN FOOD PRODUCTION AND DEFENSE INDUSTRIES, AND DECLARING COUNTRY HAS REACHED STAGE OF "INITIAL PROSPERITY." SAYS PHRASE SEEMS INTENDED TO MEAN THAT WHILE LIVING STANDARDS

AND PRODUCTIVITY REMAIN LOW IN COMPARISON WITH HIGHLY-INDUSTRIAL NATIONS, EXTREME POVERTY HAS BEEN ABOLISHED AND FOUNDATION LAID FOR STEADY FUTURE ADVANCES. SEES PIECEMEAL REPORTS APPARENTLY TIMED AS PART OF PREPARATIONS FOR MONDAY'S NATIONAL DAY CELEBRATIONS AND THEY MAY ALSO REFLECT ASSESSMENTS BEING PREPARED FOR PEOPLE'S NATIONAL CONGRESS. WHILE GIVING FEW OVERALL STATISTICS, SEES DOCUMENTS CONTAINING SOME SIGNIFICANT CLAIMS CONCERNING PRODUCTION, POPULATION GROWTH, GAINS IN HEAVY INDUSTRY AND TECHNOLOGY, TRADE AND IMPROVEMENTS IN LIVING STANDARDS AND SOCIAL CONDITIONS.

12. CHRISTOPHER PHILLIPS, PRES. OF RECENTLY-INFORMED NATIONAL COUNCIL FOR US-CHINA TRADE, TELLS NY HILTON NEWS CONFERENCE THAT 8-MEMBER DELEGATION WILL VISIT PEKING NOV. 1 FOR TWO WEEKS OF TALKS WITH ITS COUNTERPART, UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 05 STATE 192682

CHINA COUNCIL FOR PROMOTION OF INTERNATIONAL TRADE. WILL BE FIRST TIME IN NEARLY 25 YEARS THAT HIGH-LEVEL GROUP OF US BUSINESS EXECUTIVES HAS VISITED CHINA TO FACILITATE SINO-US TRADE RELATIONS. PHILLIPS SAID DELEGATION HOPES TO ARRANGE EXCHANGE OF TRADE MISSIONS AND SET TENTATIVE SCHEDULES FOR TRADE EXHIBITIONS (NYT).

13. FRANCO TODAY WILL RECEIVE PRC AMB. CHEN CHAO-YUAN IN LINE WITH LAST MARCH'S ANNOUNCEMENT THAT SPAIN WILL ESTABLISH RELATIONS WITH PRC AND BREAK WITH GRC (AP, NYDN).

MONGOLIA

14. CSM'S WOHL NOTES THAT AT RECENT 4-DAY CONFERENCE OF SOVIET-BLOC COMMUNIST PARTIES HELD IN MONGOLIA, IT WAS ALLEGED THAT PRC HAS PREPARED SOME 10 BROCHURES IN MONGOLIAN LANGUAGE AND DROPPED THOUSANDS OF THEM INSIDE MONGOLIA. RADIO PEKING ALSO WAS ACCUSED OF INTERFERENCE IN INTERNAL MONGOLIAN AFFAIRS AND ONE MONGOLIAN SPEAKER CHARGED CHINESE WERE PUTTING PRESSURE ON MONGOLIA BY SETTING UP STRATEGIC MILITARY INSTALLATIONS AND MOVING IN LARGE BODIES OF SOLDIERS. JAPAN

15. TANAKA ARRIVES IN PARIS TO OPEN THREE DAYS OF TALKS (REUTER; WP). CSM'S POND, IN TOKYO, NOTES PM LEFT JAPAN WITH HIS DOMESTIC HOUSE "SURPRISINGLY IN ORDER -- AND HIS FOREIGN POLICY ONLY VAGUELY DEFINED," WHICH IS SITUATION JUST REVERSE HALF YEAR AGO WHEN HE WAS SETTING UP WEST EUROPE AND USSR TOUR. SAYS JAPAN'S RISE TO BECOME WORLD'S

THIRD-LARGEST ECONOMY HAS NOW MADE NATION POWER
TO BE RECONED WITH ON INTERNATIONAL SCENE.

16. JAL AND NIPPON AIRWAYS PURCHASE 10 US JETS,
AT TOTAL COST OF APPROXIMATELY 220-MILLION DOLLARS
(NYT).

17. ICC ORDERS NIPPON YUSEN KAISHA AND JAPAN LINES
UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 06 STATE 192682

TO SHUT DOWN THEIR 4-YEAR-OLD, SINGLE RATE INBOUND
THROUGH CONTAINER SERVICE ON GROUNDS IT IS UNLAWFUL;
HOWEVER, AGENCY -- "SOMEWHAT DEFENSIVELY," JOC'S
MORISON NOTES -- POINTED OUT THAT DECISION WAS BASED
UPON ITS ANALYSIS OF OPERATIONS OF 2 LINES AND CONCLUSION
THAT THEY WERE UNLAWFULLY FUNCTIONING AS FREIGHT
FORWARDERS.

KOREA

18. PYONGYANG ANGRILY DENOUNCES HAK FOR SUGGESTING
NORTH AND SOUTH KOREA SHOULD HAVE UN SEATS; BUT
AT SAME TIME, NK SAYS IT WILL CONTINUE TO SEEK REPRESENTA-
TION INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS ALONG WITH
ROK (REUTER).

THAILAND

19. SENATE WEDNESDAY CONFIRMED NOMINATION OF WILLIAM
KINTNER AS US AMBASSADOR TO RTG (UPI, NYDN).

AUSTRALIA

20. WHITLAM ANNOUNCES AMB. PLIMSOLL WILL BECOME
ENVOY TO USSR AND SIR PATRICK SHAW, HIGH COMMISSIONER
TO INDIA, WILL BECOME AMBASSADOR TO US (AP, CHITRIB,
NYDN).

PHILIPPINES

21. NYT CARRIES AD OF "MOVEMENT FOR A FREE PHILIPPINES,"
DEPLORING "DESTRUCTION OF PHILIPPINE DEMOCRACY" AND
ANNOUNCING THAT GROUP CALLED FILIPINO FREEDOM FIGHTERS
HAS BEEN FORMED IN PHILS DETERMINED TO RESTORE FREEDOMS.
MFP SAYS IT IS HEARTENED AND STRONGLY SUPPORTS
ABOUREZK AMENDMENT BANNING FOREIGN AID TO ANY COUNTRY
FOR POLICE, PRISONS OR INTERNAL SECURITY FORCES AND
TO ANY STATE HAVING POLITICAL PRISONERS.

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 07 STATE 192682

COMMENT AND ANALYSIS

22. INDOCHINA RESOURCES CENTER CO-DIRECTOR FRED BRANFMAN (NYT, SEPT. 26) DECLARES THERE ARE MORE POLITICAL PRISONERS IN SVN TODAY THAN IN ANY NATION; SAYS AMNESTY INTERNATIONAL ESTIMATES 100,000 AND NOTES GVN ANNOUNCEMENT IT WILL RELEASE ONLY 3,500 TO OTHER SIDE. URGES CONGRESSIONAL ACTION TO SEE THAT POLITICAL PRISONERS ARE RELEASED ON GROUNDS RELEASE CALLED FOR IN PARIS AGREEMENT; IF POLITICAL PRISONERS NOT RELEASED, THERE CAN BE NO POLITICAL SOLUTION TO VN CONFLICT. CONTENTS THERE IS FAR DEEPER US INTEREST IN RELEASE OF POLITICAL PRISONERS, BECAUSE US CREATED SVN' POLICE SYSTEM, DECIDED THAT ALL VIETNAMESE 15-YEARS-OLD AND OLDER WOULD BE REQUIRED CARRY ID CARDS LINKED TO CENTRAL COMPUTER CONTAINING 11.5 MILLION BIO-DOSSIERS, BUILT PRISONS AND SUPPLIED GENERATORS USED FOR TORTURE BY ELECTRIC SHOCK. ATTRIBUTES SETTING UP SYSTEM OF SURVEILLANCE, ARBITRARY ARREST, INTERROGATION BY TORTURE, SENTENCING WITHOUT EVIDENCE, IMPRISONMENT WITHOUT MERCY TO MENTALITY WHICH REGARDS HUMAN BEINGS AS OBJECTS TO BE WATCHED, TRACED, CONTROLLED. EXPRESSES VIEW THAT IMPRISONMENTS IN SVN REPRESENT THREAT TO HUMANITY WHICH TRANSCENDS NATIONAL FRONTIERS, POLITICAL IDEOLOGIES, RACIAL DIFFERENCES. CONCLUDES THAT RELEASE OF SAIGON'S POLITICAL PRISONERS COULD MARK TURNING POINT IN VN HISTORY.

23. IN SECOND OF SERIES, PHINQ'S SLEVIN, IN TOKYO, SEES SIGNS OF JAPAN BEING HIT BY PROBLEMS OF MATURITY. EXPECTS JAPAN'S ECON GROWTH TO SLOW DOWN THROUGH CHANNELING OF MORE RESOURCES INTO NEEDED PUBLIC PROJECTS; UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 08 STATE 192682

FINDS JAPAN RUNNING INTO PRODUCTION CONSTRAINTS AS WELL, SINCE THERE ARE SHORTAGES OF CAPACITY, MANPOWER AND MATERIALS. PUBLIC NO LONGER THINKS MORE INDUSTRY AND GREATER PRODUCTION ARE THE GREAT, OVERRIDING GOOD. SWELLING DEMAND FOR SCHOOLS, ROADS AND HOSPITALS AND ANGRY COMPLAINTS ABOUT POLLUTION REFLECT NEW MOOD. CITES MASAYA MIYOSHI, KEIDANREN DEPUTY DIRECTOR, AS SAYING JAPANESE CONSUMER "DOES NOT CARE TO LOOK AT THE QUANTITATIVE GROWTH IN GNP. HE IS LITERALLY LOOKING AT HIS AIR AND HE DOES NOT SEEM TO LIKE THE FACT THAT HE CAN SEE IT." MIYOSHI STRESSES THAT "PASSIVE" JAPANESE OF 1960S IS GONE, AND JAPANESE ARE ORGANIZING, VOICING DISSATISFACTION, AND PRESSING THEIR DEMANDS.

24. NYT'S HALLORAN, IN TOKYO, CITES JAPANESE AND EUROPEAN DIPLOMATIC SOURCES AS SAYING THAT IN UNDERTAKING

TWO-WEEK TRIP TO EUROPE AND SOVIET UNION, TANAKA SEEKS NEW ECON AND POLITICAL RELATIONSHIP FOR JAPAN WITH WE, ONE IN WHICH JAPANESE AND EUROPEAN GOVERNMENTS WILL COMMUNICATE DIRECTLY WITH EACH OTHER AND NOT THROUGH US; WHILE IN USSR, TANAKA WILL RENEW EFFORTS TO OBTAIN RETURN OF FOUR ISLANDS IN SOUTHERN KURILES SEIZED BY RUSSIANS AT END OF WWII. TANAKA'S JOURNEY IS MAJOR PART OF DIPLOMATIC EFFORT CONCEIVED BY OHIRA TO BRING "BALANCE" TO JAPAN'S INTERNATIONAL POSTURE, I.E., IMPROVING RELATIONS WITH EUROPE, USSR AND CHINA WITHOUT WEAKENING JAPAN'S US TIES. WHILE IN EUROPE, EXPECTS TANAKA WILL RESPOND TO DEMANDS THAT JAPAN RECOGNIZE ENLARGED EEC AS ENTITY IN ITSELF WITH WHICH JAPANESE MUST DEAL IN ADDITION TO THEIR RELATIONS WITH EACH EUROPEAN NATION. CITES EUROPEAN VISITORS IN TOKYO AS HAVING REPEATEDLY WARNED JAPANESE, PUBLICLY AND PRIVATELY, TO AVOID TRYING TO PLAY OFF ONE EUROPEAN NATION AGAINST ANOTHER WITHIN COMMUNITY. PERHAPS, MOST IMPORTANT, TANAKA WILL BE TRYING KEEP EUROPEANS AND AMERICANS FROM OVERWHELMING JAPANESE IN NEW TRIANGULAR RELATIONSHIP AMONG NON-COMMUNIST INDUSTRIAL NATIONS ENVISIONED BY HAK.

25. IN CONTEXT OF SAKHAROV AND SOLZHENITSYN CASES AND UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 09 STATE 192682

US-USSR DETENTE, ARTHUR SCHLESINGER JR. (NYT) RECALLS COMMENT HE MADE LAST NOVEMBER THAT "GOVERNMENT-TO-GOVERNMENT DETENTE MAY WELL STIMULATE SOVIET AND CHINESE LEADERS TO CLAMP DOWN ALL THE HARDER AT HOME IN ORDER TO GUARD AGAINST THE NEW PRESTIGE OF UN-COMMUNIST IDEAS." SAYS EVEN THOUGH MILITARY ASPECT OF COLD WAR IS NOW DECIDEDLY SUBORDINATE, THAT WAR IN ITS MOST FUNDAMENTAL FORM GOES ON. "ISSUES MUST CONTINUE BETWEEN DEMOCRACY AND COMMUNISM SO LONG AS THE SOVIET LEADERS - AND THE CHINESE LEADERS - REJECT IDEOLOGICAL COEXISTENCE. GENUINE AND LASTING DETENTE REQUIRES A CANDID AND OPEN WORLD."

26. TORONTO GLOBE & MAIL'S BURNS, IN PEKING, OBSERVES HOW "CHINESE OFFICIALS" ARE RECOUNTING TO WESTERN DIPLOMATS TALE THAT JUST BEFORE 10TH CP CONGRESS, TWO MEN IN AUTO WITH SOVIET EMBASSY LICENSE PLATES CARRIED OFF MAIL BOX IN MIDDLE OF NIGHT, PROBABLY IN HOPES OF OBTAINING INFO BY STUDYING LETTERS WRITTEN BY ORDINARY CITIZENS. BURNS SAYS WHAT INTRIGUES MOST DIPLOMATS IS NOT AUTHENTICITY OF CHARGES, BUT FACT THEY HAVE BEEN MADE AT ALL; THIS IS SEEN AS REFLECTION OF LOW EBB THAT SINO-SOVIET RELATIONS HAVE REACHED IN RECENT TIMES. LETTER-BOX INCIDENT COMES HARD ON HEELS OF ESCALATING SERIES OF PROPAGANDA BLASTS FROM PEKING AND MOSCOW, RAISING PITCH OF DISPUTE BETWEEN THEM TO ITS SHRILLEST

POINT SINCE 1969 BORDER CLASHES. DIPLOMATS IN PEKING
TEND TO DISCOUNT WAR TALK, BUT MORE AND MORE FASHION IN
PEKING TO ASK HOW MUCH FURTHER PROPAGANDA BATTLE CAN
CONTINUE BEFORE DISPUTANTS BEGIN TAKING CONCRETE STEPS
AGAINST ONE ANOTHER. DIPLOMATS WHO FIND LETTER-BOX
STORY HARD TO ACCEPT ARE EVEN MORE INCREDULOUS ABOUT
ANOTHER CHARGE RECENTLY MADE THAT SOVIET PERSONNEL
HAVE BEEN ENTERING PUBLIC PLACES AND INTRODUCING THEM-
SELVES AS CANADIANS OR ALBANIANS IN HOPE OF DRAWING
CHINESE CITIZENS INTO CONVERSATIONS. BURNS SAYS IT IS
INVARIABLY CASE THAT ALL FOREIGNERS OF WHATEVER
NATIONALITY MUST KEEP THEIR INFORMAL CONVERSATIONS WITH
CHANCE ACQUAINTANCES AT FAIRLY SUPERFICIAL LEVEL -- AND
UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 10 STATE 192682

RUSSIANS ARE PRESUMED TO KNOW THIS. IT IS FACT,
NONETHELESS, THAT SOVIET PERSONNEL HAVE APPROACHED OTHER
FOREIGNERS IN PEKING IN ATTEMPT TO HAVE THEM PROCURE
INFO NOT OTHERWISE AVAILABLE TO SOVIET EMBASSY (CSM). KISSINGER

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